said body having an outer surface with a pair of opposite cylindrical portions extending along substantially the entire length of said body and defining said first diameter, and a pair of substantially flat opposite side walls connected between said opposite cylindrical portions, said side walls extending along a substantial portion of said length of said body; and

A' (Cont.)

external threads defined on said pair of opposite cylindrical portions of said outer surface and extending along substantially the entire length of said body.

2. (amended) The fusion device according to claim 1, wherein said [body is] cylindrical portions are tapered along a substantial portion of said length and [includes] define a second diameter at a second end thereof that is greater than said first diameter.

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4. (amended) The fusion device of claim 3, further comprising a pair of diametrically opposed slots defined through said threads in said cylindrical portion and communicating with said hollow interior, said opposed slots being elongated along said length of said body[,] and each being larger than the combination of said number of openings.

A 2

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6. (amended) The fusion device of claim 5, wherein said opposed slots are rectangular in configuration and have a width dimension transverse to said length of said body; and

A 3

said cylindrical portions [have] define an effective] width between said opposite side walls and said opposed slots,

wherein said width dimension of said opposed slots is greater than said effective width of said cylindrical portions.



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